MESSAGE

The Government and the People of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan join me in extending our warm felicitations and best wishes to the Secretary-General of SAARC, dedicated staff of the Secretariat and the people of the South Asia on the occasion of the Thirty-fourth SAARC Charter Day.

SAARC reflects the determination and resolution of the peoples of the South Asia to work together towards tackling the shared challenges that we face. We believe that prosperity, peace and stability cannot be achieved only by focusing on national interest and challenges, but also taking into consideration the collective interest and opportunities that can be also beneficial to our region. On this basis, we greatly value the work of SAARC and have always sought to make the most of our membership in this group for the benefit of a more integrated, stable and prosperous South Asia.

On this auspicious day, would like to reiterate Afghanistan’s firm commitment to the goals and principles enshrined in the SAARC Charter and reaffirm that Afghanistan stands ready to work closely with all fellow Member States to make SAARC a robust vehicle of regional cooperation and connectivity in our region.

Adela Razi
Deputy Foreign Minister
Message

On behalf of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, I would like to convey my warm felicitations to the Governments and the Peoples of the Member States of the SAARC on the occasion of the 34th SAARC Charter Day 2018. I would also extend my warm wishes to the SAARC Secretariat, the Regional Centres, the Specialized Bodies, the Apex Bodies and the SAARC Recognized Bodies on this happy occasion.

Bangladesh as one of the founding members of SAARC always attaches high priorities in achieving the goals and objectives of the regional forum. Bangladesh takes much pride in the fact that the very idea of SAARC was conceived in Bangladesh. It was the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who back in 1972 for the first time dreamt of working together with the neighbours in the South Asian region for collective economic and social progress. SAARC regional forum emerged as an epitome of the dream of the Founding Father of Bangladesh. Regional cooperation hence remained an inherent part of the foreign policy initiatives of the Government of Bangladesh led by the Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the able daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

SAARC region offers huge potentials for cooperation and collaboration in multiple sectors many of which are yet unexploited. SAARC Member States are inextricably linked with each other through geographical, political, cultural and social proximity and marked by many other commonalities. It is my firm conviction that SAARC can emerge as the leading regional organization given a deeper and stronger sense of fraternity and solidarity entrenched among the SAARC Member States.

While reiterating our deep commitment to the SAARC Process, I express my sincere believe that this special day would be an impetus for all stake holders of SAARC to move ahead with a lot of optimism to resolve the existing and forthcoming challenges that may fall on our venture ahead.

Long live SAARC.

Joy Bangla!
Joy Bangabandhu!

(Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP)
Message

On behalf of the people and the Royal Government of Bhutan, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to the people of South Asia on the happy and auspicious occasion of the 34th Anniversary of the SAARC Charter Day.

As a founding member, Bhutan remains committed to the purposes and principles of the SAARC Charter. Since its establishment in 1985, it is a matter of great satisfaction to note that the SAARC progress has grown based on our shared values, beliefs and aspirations. The regional will to cooperate in many important areas under the framework of SAARC has manifested itself in many landmark developments. This has served to provide greater impetus and vitality to the SAARC process.

As we commemorate the thirty-fourth anniversary of our Association, it is fitting occasion to celebrate the significant achievements made by SAARC in economic, social and cultural fields. It is also a fitting occasion to pay tribute to the conviction and wisdom of the founding fathers of SAARC who established the association to promote regional cooperation in many important areas for the well-being of the people of South Asia.

I wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the Royal Government of Bhutan to the SAARC process and look forward to working closely with all other Members States to further achieve the goals and objectives enshrined in the SAARC Charter.

(Dr. Lotay Tshering)
Prime Minister

MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 34th SAARC Charter Day, I convey my felicitations and best wishes to all fellow citizens of SAARC member states.

As a founding member of SAARC, India is committed to strengthening regional cooperation and integration. Our initiatives in recent years, such as the launch of South Asia Satellite, extension of India's National Knowledge Network to South Asian countries and ever continued support to the South Asian University and the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (Interim Unit) are geared towards promoting people-to-people contacts and connectivity in the region.

In its journey of over three decades, SAARC has made progress. However, it has been below the region's full potential. An environment of peace and security is essential for regional cooperation to flourish and achieve economic development and prosperity of our people. Terrorism remains the single largest threat to peace and stability in our region. It is necessary that we eliminate this menace in all its forms, without any discrimination, along with its support systems.

This Charter Day is an occasion for us to renew our commitment to realize our collective vision of a peaceful, prosperous and integrated South Asia.

(Narendra Modi)

New Delhi
November 27, 2018
Excellency,

As we mark the Thirty Fourth Anniversary of the founding of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), it gives me great pleasure to extend warm greetings from the Government and the people of the Republic of Maldives to the Secretary General of SAARC, staff at the SAARC Secretariat and people of all SAARC Member States.

Since its founding in 1985, SAARC has played a key role in promoting cooperation and collaboration among Member States in a wide variety of areas encompassing economic, social, cultural and technical fields. It has proven to be an important vehicle that has helped foster greater understanding and friendship amongst the peoples of the South Asia region.

South Asia is enriched by cultural diversity whilst united in its hopes for a peaceful and prosperous region. We in the Maldives remain determined to work together with our SAARC brothers in realizing the noble aspirations that the founders of SAARC envisioned for the peoples of South Asia in overcoming the many and varied challenges facing our peoples.

On this special occasion, I wish to assure the full commitment of the Government of Maldives to play our part in strengthening regional cooperation towards improved economic status and a peaceful region. It is my sincere hope that we put aside our differences, and work together as an organization to be able to meaningfully contribute towards improving the welfare and quality of life of our people.
I wish SAARC and the region a peaceful and prosperous future.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
6/12/2018

His Excellency Amjad Hussain B. Sial
Secretary-General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation,
Kathmandu.
Message by
His Excellency Abdulla Shahid,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives,
on the occasion of the SAARC Charter Day
8 December 2018

Today, as we mark the thirty fourth Charter Day of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), it gives me great pleasure to extend warm greetings and compliments to the Secretary General of SAARC, the industrious staff at the SAARC Secretariat and the people of South Asia.

SAARC was founded to enhance regional coordination and connectivity to alleviate poverty throughout South Asia. Despite the many challenges and drawbacks over the past three decades, SAARC has withstood the test of time and succeeded in creating new opportunities for the peoples of South Asia to move steadily forward in creating a regional identity. As we mark another year since its establishment, we need to build on our strengths and focus on how as a region, we can improve the lives of all our people and achieve sustainable progress and prosperity.

As we celebrate this important occasion today, I wish SAARC and the region every success.
On the occasion of the 34th SAARC Charter Day, I extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to all Member States and the peoples of South Asia. It is pleasing to note that the SAARC has made progress in various sectors of regional cooperation since its inception in 1985.

The SAARC Charter embodies vital objectives ranging from economic prosperity to socio-cultural development and promoting collective interests and benefits of the Member States. The principles of the SAARC Charter have laid a solid foundation for regional cooperation in South Asia.

South Asia is bound together by shared history, common social fabrics and cultural heritage, and geographical contiguity. Huge potentials and opportunities for development have added further impetus to walk and work together.

The world today is facing several challenges such as poverty, inequality and climate change. Global and regional solidarity and efforts are needed to tackle these challenges. I firmly believe that regional cooperation in South Asia is not a choice, but a necessity. I am confident that SAARC, as a common forum of South Asian countries, will continue to enhance understanding among the Member States and consolidate initiatives to address such challenges, thereby paving the way for development and prosperity.

In view of the growing significance of regional cooperation, I believe that the Member States should attach high level of commitment to make SAARC a vibrant regional body. In this context, reinvigorating the SAARC process and
timely holding of Summit will be critical importance. Nepal, as a founding member and the current chair of SAARC, is firmly committed to the SAARC Charter, its principles and objectives in line with its foreign policy priority.

I hope this special day will inspire all of us to stand firmly together to work towards a deeper regional integration for peaceful, prosperous and happy South Asia.

Kathmandu, 7 December 2018

K P Sharma Oli
Message from H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
on the Thirty-Fourth SAARC Charter Day

It is a matter of pleasure for me to extend heartiest felicitations to the people and the Member States of SAARC on commemoration of Thirty Fourth SAARC Charter Day. Over the years, SAARC has made notable strides in various fields of intra-regional cooperation. The region is blessed with enormous human and natural resources and holds great promise in sustainable economic development in South Asia.

SAARC Charter Day is the day to renew our commitment to the cherished goals of the Organization. This is the platform, which can help realize our dreams of alleviating poverty, creating socio-economic parity, empowering women and giving a prosperous, peaceful and progressive future to our region. My vision for our region is a dispute-free South Asia, where we jointly fight poverty, illiteracy, disease, malnutrition, and unemployment.

I sincerely wish all the people of our South Asian region happiness, prosperity, and peace.
Message from the Prime Minister of Pakistan  
On the Thirty-Fourth SAARC Charter Day  
(08 December 2018)

On behalf of the people and the government of Pakistan, I wish to felicitate the governments and the citizens of the Member States as we celebrate the 34th SAARC Charter Day.

We commemorate, today, the vision and the foresight of our leaders that was instrumental in adopting the SAARC Charter and the establishment of SAARC. In order to ensure better life for their people, they formed this organization to open new avenues of cooperation and collaboration in multiple fields.

Pakistan believes that SAARC can provide a conducive and congenial atmosphere to build economic synergies and transform the quality of life of the peoples of South Asia. It is only through adhering to the principles of sovereign equality and mutual respect among Member States, would we be able to exploit the true potential of the SAARC and achieve our cherished goal of a prosperous and developed South Asian region.

There is a requirement for enhanced cooperation among the member states. Moreover, we need to collaborate with other major international organizations to exploit our unutilized potential for the benefit of the people of South Asia. It is unfortunate that due to unresolved bilateral disputes amongst the member countries, SAARC could not achieve the desired socio-economic cooperation and prosperity in the region.

It is the need of the hour to move forward with the spirit of cooperation that was instrumental in the formation of SAARC.

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Commemoration of 34th SAARC Charter Day, 8th December 2018

It is indeed my great pleasure to extend my heartfelt felicitations and best wishes on the occasion of the Thirty-fourth SAARC Charter Day which falls on 8th December 2018.

Created with the objective of promoting peace and prosperity in the region, based on the values of mutual respect and sovereign equality, SAARC has attempted to unite the South Asian Region for the purpose of achieving these important goals. Over the years, SAARC has welcomed cooperation with International Organizations and countries from regions outside South Asia, as Observers, into the SAARC realm, with the expectation of benefiting from external linkages and encouraging South-South as well as North-South dialogue, and economic integration with the international community.

Sri Lanka, as a founding member, has contributed to the SAARC Charter goals and objectives over the years. Sri Lanka is resolute in moving beyond middle-income level to upper middle income bracket, through developing its skilled workforce. To reach this end, Sri Lanka has given priority to enhancing productivity and to create diverse sources of income in rural sectors while safeguarding the environment and adhering to Sustainable Development Goals.

Though recognised as the fastest growing economic region in the world, South Asia needs to work harder towards greater regional integration. The intra regional trade stands at less than five percent of the global trade in a region of over twenty percent of humanity. Though SAARC has made commendable strides in placing a mechanism for greater cooperation, there is much room for effective implementation of the decisions taken. It is timely to recognise that the future of South Asia is interlinked while opening up to the rest of the world.

While reiterating Sri Lanka’s commitment to achieve the SAARC objectives, I remain convinced that the SAARC family of nations has the potential to reach its developmental goals and economic progress through heightened regional cooperation and integration, in an atmosphere of brotherhood and amity.

6th December 2018

Maithripala Sirisena